

# GCSE Music

## Why study Music?

If you have an interest in evaluating other people's music but also creating your own, in performing informally to learn about a style or formally for a solo or group assessment, in other cultures and other languages, or simply in unlocking one of the great beauties of the world, Music could be the subject for you. It is a subject with a great variety of content and skills.



## What will you be learning?

**Unit 1 Understanding Music** You complete a 90-minute listening examination with questions based on the Areas of Study – Traditional Music (including music from other cultures), Popular Music, and Western Classical music. This paper includes some short analysis questions about set pieces that you study. (40%)

**Unit 2 Performing Music** You present two performances, one solo and one ensemble (duet or group). The total performing time is minimum 4 minutes. (30%)

**Unit 3 Composing Music** You compose two pieces of original music, one to a brief or stimulus sent out by the exam board in September of Year 11, and one a free choice. (30%)

## What are the lessons like?

Here's what the students say: "We learn about music by playing a variety of different instruments, including our own (so it helps to be able to play something or sing already). We can enjoy different musical cultures, by listening to things and recording our own performances. We get to go in MR3 to do individual composition. You get to do a lot of your own thing, so you can be very creative."

## What can it lead to?

If you have done GCSE Music, you can go on to study A level Music in the Sixth Form or any BTEC Music course that might be offered at the Studio School, but you would also find it a good preparation for all sorts of other subjects that use similar skills. It requires you to analyse things by listening, so it's a good grounding in concentrating and being perceptive, and it also produces good performers and confident students who are used to being well prepared for deadlines.

## Want to know more?

You can speak to any of your music teachers to find out more about the course and discuss your suitability for it.